

# ISWG Meeting Note

## December 2023



Inter-Sector  
Working Group  
Jordan

### ISWG Meeting Note and Action Points

<b>Date / Time / Venue</b>	<b>Wednesday, 06 December 2023, 10:00 - 11:30, WFP office</b>
<b>Attendees</b>	Inter-Sector Coordinator, Sector Coordinators, Leads/Co-Leads of the Shelter, WASH, Food Security Basic Needs, Education Sectors, Economic Empowerment, UN Women focal point for localization, and Irbid Field office.

### SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS AND OUTCOMES

- **Ensuring efficient reporting on ActivityInfo:** Inter Agency will provide sector leads with a list identifying partners who have updated their Plan databases in ActivityInfo and those who have not. This will aid in efficiently tracking and following up with partners who are yet to report.
- **Fostering Local Partnership in Sector Working Groups:** Co-chairs from each sector are committed to advocating for the integration of local partners as co-chairs, reinforcing the importance of local engagement and leadership.
- **Convene the working groups meeting in Arabic:** whenever possible the sectors' co-chairs are encouraged to conduct the working group meeting in Arabic.
- **Enhancing Information sharing with local partners:** Continuously fostering information sharing among local partners, which includes relevant government bodies, Community-Based Organizations (CBOs), and civil society organizations, to ensure comprehensive and collaborative communication.
- **Strengthening cross- sectoral linkages:** Co-leads of various sectors are encouraged to identify a primary sector of strategic importance and actively foster communication and coordination with it, thereby enhancing overall coherence and collaboration.
- **Enhancing field coordination:** Plans are underway to initiate intersectoral field visits starting from January 2024. Additionally, the ISWG workshop on coordination and leadership, will be replicated at the field level.
- **Next ISWG meeting:** on the occasions of Christmas and new year holidays, the next ISWG meeting will be held in the third week of January 2024 on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup>.

The Senior Inter Agency Coordination Officer | UNHCR Representation Ms. Virginia in Jordan opened the meeting by welcoming the audience and passed on the floor to Loyal from IACU/UNHCR to introduce the meeting agenda as follows:

- 2023 Reporting
- Localization
- Cross-sectoral coordination
- Sectors' operational updates

- AOB

## 2023 REPORTING

Ms. Layal provided a general overview on ActivityInfo and the importance of entering accurate data into the system. She also urged all partners to carefully review the indicators.

Few partners voiced concerns regarding the difficulties of retroactive reporting in ActivityInfo. Ms. Virginia underscored the necessity of streamlining Activity Info and facilitate reporting.

## LOCALIZATION

Ms. Merit Sofia Hietanen from UNWOMEN delivered a presentation on Jordan localization baseline report.

### The following points were discussed:

- MEAL framework developed in 2021 and the baseline data were gathered in 2022 and 2023. The framework vision was to ensure that the local and international actors are involved in the process and contributing to the national localization agenda.
- The recommendations are based on the 2021 data which have been taken from many sources including: international and local actors, donors survey, UNHCR coordination groups, UNOCHA, and partnership analysis.

### The main recommendations that have been delivered based on the baseline report are as follows:

- **Funding: Enhance opportunities of financial allocation and direct funding to LNAs.**
- **Coordination: Further efforts can be made to address the barriers to LNA participation and promoting their increased engagement and leadership in humanitarian coordination mechanisms.** Create opportunities for Arabic speaking participants.
- **Coordination: Continued efforts from both IAs and LNAs are needed to strengthen nationally led coordination.**
- **Partnership quality: Strengthen the quality of partnerships to further tailor and contextualise partnership agreements** addressing the concerns and interests raised by LNAs.
- **Partnership quality: Enhance the leadership roles of LNAs throughout the programme cycle** in joint projects with IAs and provide joint capacity strengthening efforts to better enable this.
- **Participation: IA accountability mechanisms need to be made available also to LNAs. There is also work to be done in ensuring inclusive communication and engagement with the affected population, particularly considering gender, age, and diversity considerations.**
- **Capacities: A comprehensive and collaborative approach to capacity assessment and strengthening is necessary** for more effective humanitarian assistance. By ensuring mutual assessments, tailored plans, dedicated resources, and specific attention to diverse actors such as WROs and WLOs, the capacities of both IAs and LNAs can be strengthened, leading to more impactful and sustainable humanitarian outcomes.
- **Capacities: Build capacities of international actors** in mutually equal partnership agreements, use of decision-making matrixes, ensuring ability to carry out partnership relationships in Arabic language.

- **Enabling environment: Explore opportunities to enhance the support provided to LNAs to engage in strategic dialogue** initiatives in relation to shaping a more coordinated and impactful humanitarian response.

After the presentation, a brainstorming and discussion held around the roles that the local partners can play within the ISWG and the sectors? what have done from the sector sides to enable the local partners participation in the sector meetings? and what the capacities that need further support to enhance the leadership of the local partners? .

**The delivered comments on the above-mentioned questions were as follows:**

- The Education sector working group chairs facilitated the participation of national partners in all JRP 2024-2026 discussions. They also ensured open communication between the ministry and the working group, ensuring all partners were well-versed in their roles and contributions. As the education working group is now co-chaired by three organizations (UNICEF, NRC, and RI), they have an intention to localized one of these positions during the next co-chairs election in February 2024. So far, two national partners have nominated them self to co-chair the group.

The FSNB (Food Security and Basic Needs) working group is currently co-chaired by three organizations, including the national partner TUA. From TUA's viewpoint, having a local organization co-chair a working group is vital as it allows for directly addressing the challenges faced by national actors.

- Protection working group in now co-chaired by a local partner NCF (government actor).

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Within the Irbid working group, the co-chairs conduct meetings in Arabic as a means of involving national partners in the decision-making process.

- Shelter working group has been discussing the localization since a while with aim to strengthen the shelter sector in general. Also, the sector is continuing its efforts to involve more the government and national partners in the sector activities and discussions.

The co-chair of the Economic Empowerment group highlighted that national partners may encounter challenges due to staffing constraints, which can affect their effective participation in coordination and operational tasks. Additionally, the Economic Empowerment working group is actively considering the appointment of a national co-chair to enhance local actors' representation and collaboration.

UNWOMEN Update: The localization task team, formed two years ago and jointly led by UNWOMEN, JONAF, and JIF, is set to be reactivated. This team will convene with the steering committee within the next week. During this meeting, they will discuss reopening group participation and will finalize a roadmap for localization in Jordan, drawing insights from the baseline report's findings.

- The presentation material on Jordan localization baseline report can be found through this [link](#).
- Localization baseline report English version can be found though this [link](#).
- Localization baseline report Arabic version can be found through this [link](#).
- MEAL framework for localization of humanitarian action in Jordan can be found through this [link](#).

## CROSS-SECTORAL COORDINATION

- Follow up on the ISWG Reform Workshop: IA followed-up on the outcomes of the reform workshop conducted in November 2022. This event focused on reinforcing cross-sectoral linkages to boost

response efficiency. Participants reached a consensus on the importance of enhancing complementarity and reducing duplication in order to more effectively serve refugees and host communities. The goal is to streamline processes and deliver aid more efficiently, ultimately benefiting those in need through improved coordination and collaboration across sectors. IA outline some best practices in this regard, primarily between shelter and the WASH sectors.

- FSNB and economic empowerment sectors may start discussion on establishing a framework that tackles overlapping.
- IA emphasized JoSH's message on the need to enhance effective coordination across all sectors. She highlighted this as particularly crucial in the current scenario of decreasing funding and withdrawal from several organizations, underscoring the importance of collaborative efforts to cover gaps in such challenging times.

## SECTORS' OPERATIONAL UPDATES

### Education sector:

- On the upcoming Global Refugee Forum, there was recently a meeting between minister of education, MoPIC secretary general, UN agencies and donors. The minister stated that there is a focus to have access to quality education in all stages.
- The main topic of the meeting was that the plan of the Education ministry is relatively high in term of budget needed taking into consideration the fund shortage. The minister expresses his agreement on this point.

During the meeting, UNHCR inquired whether there was consideration for implementing a policy pledge aimed at refugee education by the Ministry of Education. The Ministry responded, indicating the possibility of developing such a plan in the future.

### FSBN Sector:

- WFP and UNHCR have Finalized the appeals process which came after the retargeting exercise which took place during Jul, Aug, and Sept 2023. And in mid-November, the results of the appeals have been sent out.
- MoPIC requested WFP to provide information on the funding situation. Based on the needs-based plan, WFP will provide feedback.

### Shelter sector:

- UNRWA participated in the last shelter working group meeting where they briefed the members on their shelter activities in general and about what they do now in Gaza. Some shelter partners expressed their interest in knowing more about UNRWA shelter activities and the schedule a biliteral meetings to learn more and find out the ways of collaboration.
- Shelter members working in identifying the best approached to mainstream the gender and protection.

- The sector working on fund raising advocacy message to enhance the sector funding.

**On 2024-2026 JRP and 2024 GRF:**

- IA briefed on the status of the JRP. The JRP taskforces logframe has been finalized and will be uploaded into the system (Old version of JORISS) and the narrative part has been finalized as well.
- Until launching the new version of JORISS which could be in July 2024, MoPIC will be using the old version of JORISS. World Bank and UNDP are supporting MoPIC in establishing the new version.
- The 2024 Global Refugee Forum will take place on 13<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> December. Education and climate changes will be the main topics that Jordan would advocate for.